

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A portable electronic device, comprising:
 - a memory that contains a database of content, wherein the content comprises audio format files and associated non-audio format navigation files, wherein each non-audio format file comprises navigation marks;
 - a text-to-speech converter;
 - an audio output; and
 - a tactile user interface that is adapted to be operated by a print-disabled individual such that, when activated, the interface causes the audio output to announce information corresponding to the content a navigation mark from one of the non-audio format files in audio format.

2 – 41 (cancelled)

42. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises:

- a library key that causes the announcement of information corresponding to the navigation mark;
- back and forward keys that enable directional navigation; and
- a select key that announces a selected audio format file.

43. (new) The device of claim 42, wherein the user interface further comprises:

- a favorites key that enables the user to access a document previously added to a favorites list; and
- a delete key that enables the user to delete a document from the favorites list.

44. (new) The device of claim 42, wherein the user interface further comprises:

- a help key; and
- an environmental settings key.

45. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein the announcement of data corresponding to a navigation mark comprises converting the information from text format to audio format by the text-to-speech converter.

46. (new) The device of claim 1, wherein:

- each navigation mark corresponds to a position in the associated audio format file; and
- the user interface includes at least one key that, when activated after the audio output has begun to announce data corresponding to a navigation mark, causes the audio output to speak

content from the associated audio file from a point corresponding to the navigation mark in the associated audio file.

47. (new) The device of claim 46, further comprising a processor programmed with time scale modification functions that adjust a delivery speed through the audio output for a plurality of audio file types.

48. (new) The device of claim 1 further comprising a digital audio decoder for use in audio broadcast or playback.

49. (new) The device of claim 1 wherein the announced data corresponding to a navigation mark comprises information from a table of contents.

50. (new) The device of claim 44 wherein the environmental settings comprise volume, speed, voice type, date/time, or lock/unlock file.

51. (new) The device of claim 1 wherein the navigation marks comprise a title, a table of contents, a page number, a content type, a library identifier, a bookmark, ordering information, an album, a performer, song lyrics, or a song genre.

52. (new) The device of claim 1, further comprising a communication connection that receives content updates from a content provider.

53. (new) A portable electronic device, comprising:

 a memory that contains a database of content, wherein the content comprises content files and index files, wherein each content file corresponds to a document and has been filtered to remove irrelevant formatting, and wherein each index file is associated with one of the content files and contains navigation information corresponding to its associated content file;

 a text-to-speech converter;

 an audio output; and

 a user interface including at least one key that, when activated, causes the audio output to announce information from an index file.

54. (new) The device of claim 53, wherein the announcement of information corresponding to an index file comprises converting the information from text format to audio format by the text-to-speech converter.

55. (new) The device of claim 54, wherein the key comprises a table of contents key, and the announced information comprises a title for content in the content file that corresponds to the index file.

56. (new) The device of claim 55, wherein the announced information further comprises a page number, a content type, a library identifier, a bookmark, ordering information, an album, a performer, song lyrics, or a song genre.

57. (new) The device of claim 54 wherein the user interface further comprises a key that, when activated, announces an environmental setting of the device

58. (new) The device of claim 55, wherein the user interface further comprises a key that, when selected after the title is announced, causes the audio output to output the content that corresponds to the title.

59. (new) The device of claim 53 further comprising a digital audio decoder for use in audio broadcast or playback.

60. (new) A portable electronic device comprising:

 a memory that stores a plurality of content files containing audio format content and non-audio format annotations; and

 a user interface comprising:

 a first key that, when activated, causes the device to convert an annotation from text to speech and announce information corresponding to the converted annotation; and

 a second key that, when activated, causes the device to use a digital decoder to output audio format content corresponding to the announced information.

61. (new) The device of claim 60 wherein the converted annotation comprises a title, a table of contents, a page number, a content type, a library identifier, a bookmark, ordering information, an album, a performer, song lyrics, or a song genre.

62. (new) The device of claim 60 wherein the user interface further comprises a key that, when activated, announces an environmental setting of the device.

63. (new) The device of claim 60, further comprising a time scale modification function that adjusts an output speed of audio format content.

64. (new) The device of claim 60, further comprising a communication connection that receives content updates from a content provider.

65. (new) The device of claim 60, wherein the annotations comprise jumps to locations in the audio format content.